

May 18, 2000

Ms. Jane Henney, Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
Documents Management Branch (HFA-305)  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20857

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Re: Docket #00P-1211/CP1

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I write to submit my concerns regarding the FDA's regulation of genetically engineered (GE) foods (FDA Docket #00P-1211/CP1).

All citizens have a fundamental right to know whether the food we purchase and eat is GE or not; therefore, I urge you in the strongest terms to adopt policies requiring the mandatory labelling of all GE foods. Moreover, to protect the long-term health of my family, I urge mandatory pre-market safety testing on all GE foods. Additionally, I strongly support a moratorium on the development of new GE foods until long-term health and environmental safety tests are required.

Studies show that GE foods could create new toxins, antibiotic resistance, allergic reactions, and other dietary risks for consumers, and therefore should **not** be "generally recognized as safe."

As someone with strong religious beliefs, I am concerned that without mandatory labelling, individuals with ethical or religious dietary concerns may be unwittingly consuming foods that contain genes from other species.

In addition to health risks, GE foods pose a significant threat to the environment because of transgenic pollution. Genetic contamination of wild plant species threatens biodiversity. Similarly, organic crops are being contaminated by GE crops.

The FDA should change its policy so that labelling of GE foods is mandatory. New parents like myself consider this one of the most important public issues facing our society today. I hope that you will heed the voice of the consumer and support our right to know and be protected.

Sincerely,



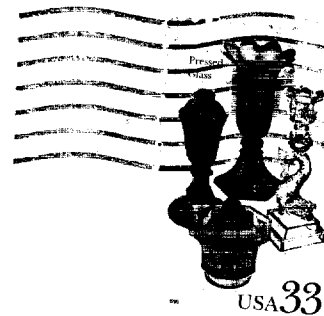
Michael Auslin

cc: Senator Peter Fitzgerald  
Senator Richard Durbin  
Representative Thomas Ewing

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